

Identification and Exploration of Relatives

OCFS Tentative Policy Considerations:

These will require further review before finalization.

Exploration Points:

- When assessment becomes a case; either a service case or a custody case
- Prior to the first FTM
- Prior to Removal: When anticipating the removal of a child the relative exploration must be fully documented and approved before the family team meeting or team decision-making occurs that is directed at possible removal.
- At change of goal-reunification to TPR
- Any case transfer within the office or between districts:
 - Permanency unit to adoption unit
 - From one permanency unit to another due to:
 - Loss of worker (such as end of employment)
- Prior to any change of placement:
 - Kin placement to new kin placement
 - Foster care to Kin placement
 - Seeking residential through the ITRT process-
 - Leaving residential

Identification of Relatives:

- 1- Discussion with the mother of who makes up her family.
 - a. Maternal family members
 - i. The mother's parents including current or former step parents or adoptive parents
 - ii. The mother's siblings including half or step siblings
 - iii. The mother's grand parents
 1. The maternal family is another source of information about the paternal family
- 2- Discussion with the father (legal / alleged) of who makes up his family
 - a. Paternal family members
 - i. The father's parents including current or former step parents or adoptive parents
 - ii. The father's siblings including half or step siblings
 - iii. The father's grand parents
 - iv. The father's aunts, uncles, and cousins
 1. The paternal family is another source of information about the maternal family